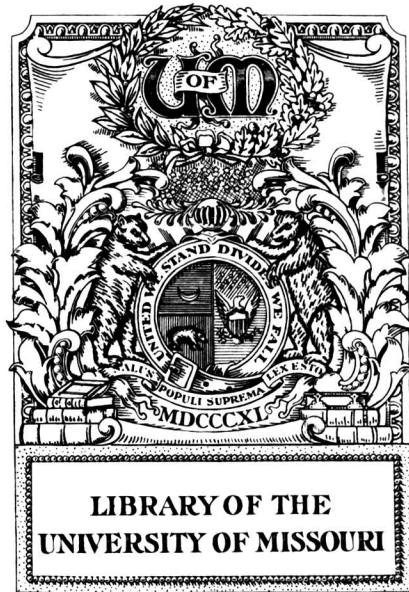




Abram

Care of the Dependent Classes in
Columbia, Mo.



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THE CARE OF THE DEPENDENT CLASSES

IN COLUMBIA, MISSOURI

by

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Introduction.

It would seem at first thought that Columbia would have no serious charity problem, that it is so advantageously situated that poverty and dependency would be reduced to a minimum. The city has a population of 13,122, most of whom are native born. There are no large factories to employ any great number of laborers, hence the foreign population is very small. Columbia's boast is that it is a city whose chief business is education; it is the seat of the state university, and has besides the great state school two junior colleges for girls. The city is situated in one of the best agricultural districts of the state.

However, notwithstanding all of these advantages there is found here, in miniature, many of the conditions that obtain in the poorer districts of the larger cities, bad housing, bad sanitation, and unemployment.

The purposes of the study here undertaken were four fold:

1. To discover as accurately as possible the size and nature of the charity problem of the city.
2. To find out what was being done for the different dependent groups.
3. To investigate the work of the different agencies offering relief so as to ascertain how well they were meeting the situation.
4. To make some suggestions that might improve the efficiency of the different agencies studied.

Method.

The first step in making the survey was to prepare a complete questionnaire, under the supervision and direction of the sociology department of the university to serve as a guide. Then soon after the work was begun I was appointed assistant Field Agent for the Charity Organization Society. This appointment gave me access to the homes of all the dependent families and enabled me to get a full history of each case. During the time the survey was being made I spent much time at the office of the Charity Organization Society and became acquainted with all those who were receiving aid from this agency.

Acknowledgements.

Acknowledgement is due Mr. D. E. Major, Field Agent of the Charity Organization Society, for full access to all the records of his office and for many valuable suggestions.

The questionnaire used in making the survey follows.

Charity Organization Society.

1. Name of beneficiary-----address-----
2. Sex-----color-----occupation-----
3. Time in the state-----in the city-----
4. Weekly earnings of the head of the family-----
of other members-----
5. Names of the children-----ages-----

6. Names of other members of the household---ages-----
occupations-----
7. Health normal---tubercular-----blind---feeble-minded--;
crippled condition-----; epileptic---insane-----
8. No education-----common school---high school-----
9. Children kept in school-----work-----wages-----
10. Examples of foolish expenditures-----
11. Why is relief necessary-----direct cause-----
indirect cause-----
12. At what age married-----
13. Any friendly visiting-----by whom-----
14. Agencies co-operating-----
15. Case appeared on record-----disappeared-----
final disposition of case-----
16. Kinds of relief given-----

-----Church.

1. Name of beneficiary-----address-----age-----
color-----occupation-----
2. Weekly earnings of the head of the family-----
of other members-----
3. Health normal-----tubercular-----blind---insane---
crippled-----epileptic-----
4. Why relief necessary-----
5. Number in family sharing relief-----names-----
ages-----occupations-----
6. Other members of the household-----names-----
ages-----occupations-----
7. Type of expenditure when not advised-----
8. Was careful inquiry made before relief was given-----
9. Was the case carefully supervised-----how-----
by whom-----
10. Are the children kept in school-----
11. Are both parents living---separated-----divorced-----
12. With what agencies do you co-operate-----how-----
13. Do you do any friendly visiting among the poor-----
14. Do you confine your visits to the members of your own
church-----
15. When did the case appear on the records-----
when disappear---what disposition was finally made of the
case-----
16. What kinds of relief do you give-----

The Care of Dependent and Neglected Children.

1. Name of child-----age-----sex----color-----
2. Name of parent or guardian-----address-----
3. Mother dead-----father dead-----parents separated
-----divorced-----
4. Child deserted by mother----by father----by both parents

5. Was the child taken from the parents by court order----
why-----when taken-----
6. Was the child given up voluntarily-----why-----
7. Was the child sent to an orphanage-----
name of orphanage-----location of orphanage-----
8. Was the child delinquent-----ill-----
feeble-minded-----blind-----epileptic-----
9. Was the child adopted-----names of foster parents--
10. Was the home inspected before the child was placed-----
11. What was the occupation of the child's parents-----
12. Was any follow up work done after the child was adopted
-----how-----by whom-----
13. Did the child prove satisfactory-----why not-----

A Study of In-door Relief.

General questions.

1. How are inmates committed to the infirmary-----
2. How are inmates discharged-----
3. Are the inmates segregated according to sex----age-----
health-----
4. Is the work test applied to all inmates-----
5. Is there any provisions made for the care of negro women

6. Is there any provisions made for caring for inmates
suffering from venereal diseases-----
7. How many of the inmates are feeble-minded-----
insane----crippled----senile----tubercular----blind----
8. What provisions are made for the care of the sick-----
9. Are there any special provisions made for the care of
the insane-----
10. Do you have any regular religious services-----
11. Individual cases-----names-----ages----sex----color---

The Care of the Dependent Sick.

1. Name of patient-----age-----sex-----
color-----address-----
2. Disease-----how long treated-----
3. Final outcome-----Treatment given in the
hospital-----in the home-----
4. Who was responsible for the care of the patient-----
5. Was the patient able to pay for any part of the service

6. Entire number of visits made-----
7. What was the occupation of the patient----wages-----
8. Had the patient been dependent from illness previously
to this time-----when-----how long-----
9. What were the causes of dependency other than sickness

10. Did the Visiting Nurse have charge of the case-----
11. What was the condition of the patient's home-----
was the sanitation bad-----what was the source of the
water supply-----was the house well screened---
12. Did the patient use ordinary precautions to prevent the
spread of the disease-----
13. What agencies co-operated in the care of the case-----

Chapter I.

THE CAUSES OF DEPENDENCY IN ONE HUNDRED DEPENDENT FAMILIES

There is a wide spread belief that poverty is a necessary evil and that its complete eradication is impossible. Because Jesus told the hypocritical Pharisees that they would always have the poor with them, many believe that He meant to teach that poverty could not be eradicated, that it was the will of God that some people should be poor. Of course, this is neither good sense nor good theology. The poor had the gospel preached unto them. This good news did not deal exclusively with mansions in the skies, but it was certainly the gospel of hope. The hope that one day they would have a chance to escape from the bondage of poverty.

When poverty and pauperism is prevalent in any society, it is an indication that to some extent that society is a failure. Every hour of the day society is wasting a vast store of human ability and power, and heedlessly creating untold misery and suffering. Much of the dependency and suffering is due to causes that can be remedied. The poor are often so because of ignorance, inefficiency, sickness, and low wages, and other forms of social maladjustment.

If poverty then is not one of the unalterable decrees of God, if it is a maladjustment in society that can be remedied, then it becomes the first duty of the social worker to try, if possible, to determine the underlying causes of the disabilities in the group that he is studying in order that he may know how to undertake a remedy.

This survey is confined to the year 1916. One hun-

dred families were found to have received some form of material aid, aside from the gift of old clothes during this time. Those persons who received no aid but donations of second-hand clothing were not considered sufficiently dependent to be placed on the records of any social agency. Twenty-nine of the one hundred dependent families were negro. The total number of persons in the white families sharing the relief was 314. The total number in the negro families sharing the relief was eighty-three.

Not all the families dealt with were dependent. They should be divided into the following groups: near dependents, temporary dependents, regular dependents, and chronic dependents. The classification shows the degree of dependency. Many of the first class are dealt with by the various charitable agencies. Men and women come to the office of the Charity Organization Society and apply for assistance. They are usually temporarily out of employment and are discouraged. Often some well meaning but shortsighted citizen has advised them to ask for help. These people do not need material aid, but rather a word of advice and encouragement. An appeal to their pride will keep them off the charity list, preserve their self respect, and frequently prevent them from drifting into the regular dependent class. Good constructive work may be done in such cases without the expenditure of a cent of money. This class was not included in the one hundred families studies and listed as dependent.

The regular dependents are those whose names appear on the records of the Charity Organization Society almost every year. This class is usually self-supporting during the summer months, but just as soon as the weather gets cold and employment becomes scarce they are compelled to apply for help. These people are ignorant, improvident, and apparently never think of saving anything for an emergency. The vast majority of the one hundred families studied belong to this class. The chronic dependents are those who require aid continually. They are the old, the crippled, and the sick. Twenty-seven of the one hundred families belong to this class.

The following table sets forth the principal disabilities found in these subnormal families.

Table Number 1. - Disabilities.

1. Physical.

1. Accident-----	3.
2. Acute illness-----	54.
3. Chronic physical disability--	7.
4. Intemperance-----	6.
5. Senility-----	16.
6. Tuberculosis-----	11.
7. Venereal diseases-----	3.
8. Maternity-----	2.

II. Mental.

1. Insanity-----	1.
2. Sexual immorality-----	10.
3. Tendency to beg-----	12.

4. Illegitimacy----- 5.

IV. Industrial.

1. Idleness or shiftlessness-----18.

2. Incompetency. Practicably all.

3. Insufficient earnings. All.

4. Unemployment-----14.

V. Social State.

1. Children's cases-----16.

2. Deserted wives-----15.

3. Divorced women-----15.

4. Married couples-----51.

5. Single men----- 3.

6. Single women----- 5.

7. Unmarried mothers----- 5.

8. Widowers----- 7.

9. Widows-----25.

10. Children under fourteen-----169.

The following table will show the number of families having one, two, three, or four disabilities. By a disability is meant any factor that in any way contributed to the dependency of the family.

Table Number 2. -- Family Having Each Specified Number of Disabilities.

<u>Number of disabilities per family.</u>	<u>Families.</u>
One-----	38.
Two-----	54.
Three-----	6.

Four-----4.
Total-----100.

The following table gives the number of families having one disability unaccompanied with other disabilities, and families having one disability accompanied by one or more others.

Table Number 3. - Nature of Disabilities Recorded
Singly or in Combination among One Hundred Dependent Families.

Disability-----	Unaccompanied with other dis- abilities,	Accompanied with other disabilities.	Total.
1. Widowhood-----	3-----	22-----	25
2. Deserted by husband---	6-----	7-----	13
3. Feeble-minded-----	0-----	7-----	7
4. Intemperate-----	2-----	4-----	6
5. Tuberculosis-----	6-----	5-----	11
6. Unemployment-----	2-----	12-----	14
7. Sickness other than tuberculosis-----	12-----	22-----	34
8. Crippled condition---	0-----	3-----	3
9. Senility-----	7-----	9-----	16
10. Sexual immorality---	0-----	10-----	10
11. Accident-----	3-----	0-----	3

The causes of dependency may be further classified as follows:

Table Number 4 - Causes of Dependency.

I. Causes within the family.

1. Desertion.
2. Intemperance.
3. Moral defects.
4. Physical defects.
5. Mental defects.
6. Sickness.
7. Death of chief breadwinner.
8. Accident.

II. Causes without the family.

1. Unemployment.
2. Low wages.

A reference to the above table will show that the chief causes of poverty in all the cases studied were due to causes within the family rather than to causes without the family. Some of the principal factors in the subnormal condition of these families will now be carefully examined.

By referring to table number one, it will be seen that sickness other than tuberculosis figures as the principal factor in more than one-third of all the cases (34%). If to acute illness be added all cases of chronic physical disability, tuberculosis, and feeblemindedness, more than one half (59%) of all cases will be found to be due to this cause. While acute illness was found to be the primary factor in the subnormal condition of thirty-four families, chronic physical disability in seven, tuberculosis in eleven, table number three

shows that in a majority of instances these disabilities were complicated by the presence of others. Closely connected with sickness is found low wages, unemployment, widowhood, large families, ignorance, and general inefficiency. Most of these families live close to the poverty line all the time. They have apparently long since given up all hope of ever accumulating a competency, consequently they make no effort to save anything when work is plentiful and times good.

Ranking next to acute illness as a maladjustment in the cases studies is widowhood. A reference to the table giving the social status of the dependents shows that one-fourth of the entire number are widows. These women were without exception the widows of poor men. In fact, many of the families had to be assisted during the last illness of the husband and father. This in itself is sufficient to show that the family was left entirely destitute. Only two men were found to have had any insurance at the time of their death. These people live from hand to mouth all their lives and the men seem to give no thought in regard to what will become of their families in the event of their death. In some cases it was found that the man had been so shiftless during his lifetime that his death was a blessing in disguise for his family. One widow came to the office of the Charity Organization Society to solicit help for a friend. While there she remarked to the assistant field agent that the Charity Organization Society had been good to her and her family while her husband lived, but that since his death she had been self-supporting.

In sixteen of the one hundred families the primary disability was old age. By old age is meant a case of senility so pronounced that the individual was no longer able to work and support himself without help from some source. This disability affected eighteen old people. Some of these old men and women are all alone in the world, while others have been abandoned and neglected by undutiful sons and daughters. A few illustrative cases will be given.

Martha W. is a fine motherly woman eighty-one years old. She has been a widow for more than fifty years. When her husband died she was left practically penniless with four small children to rear. By hard work and self-denial she managed to keep her children together and support them. Two of the boys now live in a neighboring county. They are said to be fairly well-to-do, but refuse to contribute to the support of their mother. Just recently one of these undutiful sons wanted to send his old mother to the almshouse, and because she was unwilling to go turned her out of his home. She had some friends in Columbia who agreed to pay her rent and the Charity Organization Society furnishes her with food, fuel, and clothing.

Mandy S. is an old negress who lives alone in a little shack near the Missouri, Kansas, and Texas railroad tracks. She does not know her age but from the stories she tells of the old slave days she must be at least eighty, perhaps much older. She has a daughter who pays her rent. The remainder of her living is furnished by the Charity Organization Society except what old Mandy is able to beg.

Charlie B. and Henry S. are two old negro men, both ex-slaves. They have but little idea as to their ages, but they are both too old to do anything but the lightest kind of work. They are both typical infirmity cases but for some reason they have never been sent to that institution. They are supported by the Charity Organization Society. The County Court grants them enough out-door relief to pay their rent.

Men and women are frequently dependent because they are ignorant and inefficient. Not even sickness, says Devine, is such an important factor in causing dependency as defective education -- the entire lack of training for some and the wrong kind for others. ¹ This statement of Professor Devine's is borne out by this survey. Fifty-four of the men and women represented in this study were found to be entirely illiterate. Forty claimed to have some education. Some of them said they could read a little; some said they could read but not write; while others said they could read print but that they could not read writing. The facts are that none of them had sufficient education to carry on any kind of business. Not one adult dependent was found who had completed the eight elementary grades of the common schools. Most all of them had been taken out of school while very young and put to work. The parents of these men and women had, no doubt, in many

¹"Charities and the Commons" Vol. XV. p. 150 (1905)

cases sacrificed their children's future for the sake of the few pennies they could earn by their labor.

Closely related to ignorance and partly because of it is general inefficiency. Few, if any, of these unfortunate people had ever learned to do any one thing well. They are qualified for only the most menial of tasks where the lowest wages are paid. Some of them are coal miners. They live in the city and walk out to the mines, three and four miles distance, every day. Instead of being paid a definite sum for a day's work, they are paid by the bushel. Very frequently when they are opening up a mine they will work for days and never earn one cent.

Bill D. is a coal miner. He has a feebleminded wife and a large family of children. I visited the family when they applied to the Charity Organization Society for assistance and secured a complete history of the case. At this time D. was digging coal at a bank four and one-half miles from town, and was receiving for the same four and one-half cents a bushel. With the assistance of his sixteen year old son he was able to make seven dollars a week. Neither the father, the mother, nor any of the children could read or write. The family was living in dirt and filth. They were apparently entirely destitute. The mother informed me that all they would have for supper would be corn bread and lard gravy. This was not a very substantial diet for a laboring man.

None of these men have any regular employment. They

mow lawns, make garden, rake yards, help clean house, and do other odd jobs. In winter time they clean sidewalks, fire furnaces, and carry the washings home to their wives. Very few of them want any regular employment.

The following table shows the occupations of the male beneficiaries and the number engaged in each occupation.

Table Number 5 - The Occupations of Seventy-five Men and Boys.

1. No occupation-----	6.
2. Laborers-----	52.
3. Coal miners-----	6.
4. Teamsters-----	5.
5. Peddler-----	1.
6. Drummer-----	1.
7. Printer-----	1.

Those listed as having no occupation are unemployable because of either chronic physical disability or old age. A number of those listed as laborers really have little earning capacity. They do odd jobs and make a few nickles but nothing like enough to support themselves.

The following table shows the occupations of the women who were receiving aid.

Table Number 6 - The Occupations of Eighty-four Female Beneficiaries.

1. No occupation-----	30.
2. Washing-----	40.
3. Shoe factory worker-----	6.

4. Sewing-----	2 .
5. Housework-----	3.
6. Cooks-----	6.
Total-----	84.

The thirty women who are listed as having no occupation are either incapacitated by old age, chronic physical disability, or are kept from going out to work by the presence of **small** children. Practically all of those who do work are needed in their own homes. It will be seen from the above table that all but fourteen of the women who are engaged in **gainful** occupations outside the home washed for a living. None of them could be classified as skilled workers. Those who gave sewing as their occupation were by no means skilled dressmakers. They did only plain **sewing** under the direction of some one more skilled than themselves.

As might be expected, low wages was found to be closely associated with ignorance and inefficiency. The average weekly wages of the men was \$7.50. However, this does not mean that any great number of these men earned as much as \$30 a month. As has already been stated, the great majority of them were very irregularly employed. The average **weekly** wages of the women who were engaged in some gainful occupation outside their own homes was \$3.35. Thus when it was possible for both husband and wife to be employed the combined earnings of the family was only a little more than \$10 a week. However, it seldom happened that both were working at the same time. It was nothing unusual for the husband to be tramping the streets hunting work while the wife was out washing for some of the

neighbors. The earnings of these families were scarcely sufficient to feed and clothe them when everything went well. When winter came on and additional fuel had to be bought, or when the chief breadwinner had to miss a few days work from any cause, they were compelled to apply to some agency for assistance.

Lack of judgment was found to be a contributing cause of dependency. These people do not know how to invest to any advantage their meager wages. They are always the easy prey of the unscrupulous peddler or agent. They can be induced to buy almost anything that is sold on the installment plan. It is so easy for the smooth-tongued agent to make them believe that it will be no trouble at all for them to pay the small installments. The men can easily be induced to contract to do a job of work at what will amount to starvation wages. There are always plenty of people who are ready to take advantage of their wretched ignorance.

The R. family had been the recipients of charity for some time during the illness of Mr. R. Some time after the recovery of R. I visited the family to make inquiry as to their needs. The wife informed me that they were having a hard time to make a living. She said that her husband made only \$8 a week and that they had recently paid, or rather agreed to pay, \$65 for a stove. They had bought a range on the installment plan and were paying two dollars a week on it. They could have gone to any of the second-hand stores in town and bought a stove for \$10 that would have answered their pur-

pose quite as well. A large number of families were found who had been induced to pay \$24 for four pairs of very ordinary cotton blankets. They gave as a reason for the investment that they could pay fifty cents a week and never miss it and at the same time have the use of the blankets. The poor ignorant **women** were perfectly unconscious of the fact that they were simply parroting the words of the agent.

J. B. contracted to dig a ditch to make a sewer connection for a real estate owner. When the work was done the employer found that the laborer had not made anything like reasonable wages, although he had worked hard. The employer, not wishing to take advantage of his employee's ignorance and lack of judgment, did not insist on holding him to the contract but paid him a reasonable wage. However, this employer is one in a thousand. Most men would have paid what they agreed to pay and not one cent more. This is only one of **many** examples that might be given of the lack of judgment on the part of the laborers.

It is not at all surprising that many of these dependents should be found to be related. Investigations of almshouses have shown that the majority of the inmates were of low mentality, and that many of them were from families where pauperism had been common. Data collected concerning some twelve thousand persons, inmates of the almshouses of New York, very conclusively showed the influence of bad environment on pauperism. It was shown that a large number of

these persons were descendants of paupers, and also that a large number of them had relations, brothers, sisters, aunts, and uncles who were paupers.²

In families where the parents have been recipients of charity for years at a time, where the children are permitted to beg from every source, where the normal thing is to send a child to a charity office with an order for the week's supplies, it is not at all strange that when these children grow to manhood or womanhood that they should become dependent. It may be that unwise charity is accountable, in part at least, for this condition. A wise system of relief should cure dependency rather than perpetuate it. The very fact that we find three generations of dependents in one family is an indication that there is something radically wrong with our methods of charitable work.

Several of the families studied duplicate in most particulars the well known history of the Jukes family. The men are ignorant, shiftless, inefficient, and lacking in judgment. The women are ignorant, slovenly, and often immoral. Their houses are always dirty and their children unkept. Both men and women are entirely lacking in pride or ambition. They make regular visits to the office of the Charity Organization Society to beg old clothes. If permitted, they would depend entirely on charity for their support.

A number of such interrelated groups are found in

² Warner's "American Charities".

Columbia at the present time. They have all had representatives on the records of the Charity Organization Society practically ever since its organization. As time goes on they marry and intermarry and bring more children into the world to finally become dependents and delinquents.

Jesse B. is a dirty, shiftless, indolent old man. His wife is said to be grossly immoral. She deserted her family several years ago. There are eight children in this family, all of whom are now middle aged men and women. They are without exception dependents or near dependents. **Six** of these families including thirty-three persons were on the records of the Charity Organization Society during the year covered by this survey (1916). Thus it will be seen that nearly one-tenth of the white dependents were furnished by this one family. Columbia can confidently look forward to being burdened with the descendants of this worthless old man for the next fifty years, for they are a prolific set.

Enoch S. is a coal miner. He has reared a large family, and like the B's they are all chronic paupers. Recently old man S. and his wife were notified that the Charity Organization Society would support them no longer and that they would have to go to the almshouse. They have a number of sons and daughters living in Columbia, but instead of taking care of their old parents every one of them have to receive assistance from some source every year. At the time of this writing there are three of the S. families dependent, including twelve persons who share the relief given.

This investigation showed that there was a close connection between early marriage and dependency. Many of the more intelligent women among the dependents gave early marriage as one of the contributing factors to their disabled condition. Seventy-five per cent of these women were **married** before they were of legal age. Many of them were married before they were sixteen years old, and quite a number as young as thirteen. This meant, of course, that they had little or no education at the time of their marriage, and that they were entirely **unqualified** for the duties and responsibilities of wifhood and motherhood. It meant that the husband began married life with **little earning** capacity and that such capacity grew less as he became **older** instead of increasing. (It also meant a long period of child bearing for the woman and abnormally large families.) Under such circumstances only one thing could happen. The children would have to be taken out of school just as soon as they were large enough to earn a penny, and even with their assistance the family at times would fail to be self supporting. A number of the women who married **very young** were asked if they would be willing for their daughters to marry at such an early age. The following are some of the replies received: "I would rather follow my girl to her grave than to see her marry at thirteen as I did. I do not say this to be sensational but because of my own experience. I had no mother to advise me and thought

I was bettering my condition, but I made it infinitely worse." Another woman said: "I would rather see my girl in her coffin than for her to marry at fourteen as I did. I want her to marry some good man when her education is finished, but not while she is a child." These women have been at a great disadvantage all their lives because of the lack of training which came about partly because of early marriage, and they are anxious to save their girls from suffering the same fate.

By refer^ring to the table of disabilities, it will be seen that intemperance played but a small part in causing dependency among these people. In only six cases out of the one hundred could intemperance be considered the direct cause of the dependent condition of the family. This may be explained, in part at least, by the fact that Columbia is a dry town and that the local option law is reasonably well enforced. There is much less drunkenness than in cities of like population that have open saloons. Where there is a barroom on every corner it is much easier for the man who likes his dram to stop on Saturday night with some boon companions and spend a good part of his wages, than it is where the liquor has to be shipped in by express or obtained by devious means from the bootlegger or the whiskey drugstore. Then it is possible that the facts could not always be obtained. Very few men who are guilty will confess that they have been brought to dependency through drink. While the women who applied to

the different social agencies for aid were always asked if their husbands were drinking men, it could be expected that any dutiful wife would lie for her husband under such circumstances.

Unemployment is a much more important factor in the disabilities of these families than would appear from a study of table number one. Here it would appear that unemployment was the direct cause of dependency in only fourteen families. However, this table only means that fourteen were unemployed at the time the history of the case was made. Nearly every able-bodied man who is able to get regular employment at anything like reasonable wages can support his family if he puts forth the proper effort, but when wages are low and work irregular even the most industrious frequently find it hard to be self-supporting. There is only one factory in the city that employs any large number of laborers, and these are almost always workmen of a higher type than those found among the dependents. Thus it would seem that the very nature of the work that these people are qualified to do would prevent them from ever being regularly employed.

√ Idleness and shiftlessness are the direct cause of much of the dependency found in this city. Many of those who were out of employment were making no effort to find work. It was proven beyond doubt that many of them would **not** work when employment was found for them. A few typical

cases of idleness and shiftlessness among the dependents will be given.

Ben S. is an idle irresponsible loafer. He is a typical village wise man. He can discourse fluently, if not wisely, on almost any subject. If he ever **did any** work, it has **escaped** the memory of even the oldest inhabitant. He is perfectly willing to sit in the house and philosophize on the frailty of human nature while his wife makes the living. Ben **occasionally** sits up with a sick neighbor. This, however, is not done for sweet charity's sake, for Ben never fails to call on the Field Agent of the Charity Organization Society and to suggest that he should receive pay for his invaluable services. When the family was visited their only income was \$30 a month that the county court was paying Ben's wife for nursing a county patient.

Willard M. is an able-bodied **single** man thirty-five years old. He lives with his old mother who has been very ill for several months. W. makes his mother's illness an excuse for refraining from all forms of manual labor. He says that it would not pay for him to hire some woman to come and care for his mother while he is away at work, so he is perfectly willing for the charities of the city to support the family. He is too indolent to walk down town to get the provisions that are furnished him.

H. M. is an old negress. She recently called at the office of the Charity Organization Society and secured a little temporary assistance. She said that she had only one child, a daughter named Mattie. Further inquiry re-

vealed the fact that "Mattie" was a big buck "nigger" man who has the reputation of being one of the worst crap shooters and bootleggers in the negro district.

Chapter II.

THE CARE OF DEPENDENT FAMILIES.

Having studied in some detail the causes of dependency, an attempt will now be made to analyze the treatment given the several dependent groups, and the efforts that are being made by the different agencies to rehabilitate these dependent families. It will be seen that there are many difficulties to be encountered in dealing with these unfortunate people. In many cases about all that can be done for them is to give them a little temporary relief. It will be the purpose of this chapter to point out some of the difficulties, to show what is being done by the different agencies, and to make some suggestions that might be helpful.

What is being done for these sub-normal families may be more clearly and specifically indicated by giving a few concrete cases that came under the observation of the investigator and which he was able to study with some care. These are believed to be fairly representative of the different dependent groups.

Widowhood.

Widowhood was found to be a fruitful cause of dependency. The family of a widow can never be considered normal, not even where there is an older son to take his

father's place as the chief support of the family. In the first place, this arrangement can never be considered permanent. The chances are that in a short time the young man will marry and establish a home of his own. This added responsibility will usually make it impossible for him to continue to support his mother and her family. Then even should the son not marry he is likely to tire of the responsibility, go away and leave his dependent kin to shift for themselves.

There are a number of cases now on the records of the Charity Organization Society that illustrate the statements that have been made concerning the unreliability of young men where the support of a widowed mother is concerned. In getting the history of a case where a widow is the applicant, it is the rule rather than the exception to find that she has a grown son who at one time contributed to her support, but who does so no longer, either because he is married and is unable to do so or because he has left home and is no longer willing to do anything for his dependent relatives.

A few months ago a widow with three children aged ✓
eight, six, and four moved to Columbia. They had no sooner got settled in their new home than the mother called on the Charity Organization Society for assistance. She stated that she was entirely destitute; that she washed for a living and that she was able to make only three dollars a week

when she could get work all the time. Careful inquiry showed that since the death of her husband she had been supported by her twenty year old son who is a railroad section hand. A short time before the mother came to Columbia the boy left home. Before going away he told his mother that she need not look to him for support any longer. He even went so far as to sell his mother's cook-stove.

Then even if the oldest son should stay at home and dutifully supply the immediate necessities for his mother and his younger brothers and sisters, the family could not be considered normal. However faithful the older brother might be he could not take his father's place when it came to training and disciplining the children. In a few years they would refuse to obey him or to give any heed to his instructions. Therefore the family of a widow must be considered permanently sub-normal.

Another puzzling question in the care of the families of dependent widows is to decide when it is best to persuade the mother to give up the children and permit them to be placed in foster homes, and when it is ^a better policy to give her sufficient help to enable her to maintain the home and keep the children together. A number of families are now being cared for by the Charity Organization Society where it would be better for all concerned for the family to be broken up. Some illustrative cases will be given.

Mrs. P. is a frail, illiterate, inefficient widow with three small children. She is practically entirely de-

pendent and will continue to be so for years to come. None of the children are in school. The mother can neither read nor write. When the history of her case was made she could not tell her age nor the ages of any of her children. If clothing and books are furnished these children the mother will make no effort to send them to school. While she is away at her work they will run wild on the street in the worst possible company. Would it not be better to take these children out of this home and place them in good foster homes where they would be taught to work and obey?

Another question to be decided in dealing with such cases is the amount of work the mother should be required to do outside her own home. Where the mother is in good health and of normal mentality should she remain with her children and be entirely dependent or should she seek employment outside the home when such employment will mean that the children will be to some extent neglected? If she is compelled to work in the store or factory what arrangements shall be made for the care of the children who are not of school age? If the children are over fourteen years old shall they be compelled to leave school and go to work or would it be a wiser plan to give the mother sufficient assistance to enable the children to stay in school and finish their education? These are some of the perplexing problems that must be solved in dealing with this class of dependents.

The following cases will illustrate how the charitable agencies of Columbia are meeting the situation. The first illustration is that of a young widow with six

children. This woman is above the average in intelligence and is ambitious to keep her children with her and to be self-supporting. The Home Economics Department of the University of Missouri took an interest in the family and without any charge taught the young mother to do plain sewing. The teachers reported that she was a good student and made rapid progress. The instruction received has been a great help. It has enabled her to make her own as well as her childrens' clothes and when opportunity offers to do sewing for other people. The Charity Organization Society furnishes the family fuel during the winter. It has not been necessary to give them any other form of material relief. The Friendly Visiting Committee of the Charity Organization Society has taken a great interest in the family and has rendered valuable service in caring for the younger children while the mother is away at her work. This woman is making a heroic struggle to educate and support her children and she deserves all the help and encouragement that may be given her. This home should be preserved at all hazards.

The second case is that of a somewhat older woman and her four children. It is by no means such a hopeful case as the first one. In fact, this is quite a hopeless case in so far as doing any real constructive work is concerned. The woman has been married twice. The first husband and the father of all the children is dead. The records show that the woman's second husband deserted his first wife to marry her and after living with her for a short time de-

serted the family. She is crippled and has no earning capacity, and is besides shiftless, extravagant, ignorant, and immoral. The fifteen year old son pays the rent and the Charity Organization Society furnishes the family with food, fuel, and clothing. No other agency has taken any interest in the case. There is no question but what this family should be broken up. The oldest boy is already a delinquent and is now out on parole. The mother has no control over any of the children, and if they are not taken away from her they will all land in some penal institution. There is really no good reason why a home of this kind should be preserved.

The third illustrative case is that of a woman twenty-eight years old and her two little girls ages eleven and seven. Her husband died recently and left his family destitute. The widow reported that when her husband died he left barely enough money to pay the funeral expenses. She moved to Columbia ten months ago and since that time has been employed in the shoe factory. Her average weekly wage is seven dollars. She has been making a heroic struggle to be self-supporting and in the main has succeeded. About Christmas time some of her neighbors reported that both of the children were barefooted. The Field Agent of the Charity Organization Society made an investigation and found the facts as reported. On Christmas morning the girls were taken to a shoe store and given a taste of real Christmas cheer by being presented with a good pair of shoes for each.

The Field Agent at the same time enlisted the help of some good women who promised to take an interest in the family and to assist them in every way possible.

The fourth case is that of an older woman. Her husband was killed by a cave-in of a sewer ditch. The family was left entirely destitute. In fact, the family had always lived close to the poverty line even when the husband was alive and able to work. Her only support is a seventeen year old boy who works in the shoe factory and whose average salary is seven dollars a week. Besides the boy just mentioned there are three other children in the family, a boy fourteen, and two girls twelve and six. The Charity Organization Society has been furnishing the family food, fuel, and clothing ever since the death of the husband. Not much can be done towards rehabilitating this family because the woman is not willing to try to help herself. Employment was found for her near her home but she rather indignantly refused to accept the place. She gave as a reason that she could not leave her baby. However it should be noticed that her baby is six years old and should be in school. This widow is strong and in good health and there is no reason why she should not work and help support the family.

All of the women mentioned are white. There are several negro widows receiving aid from the different charitable agencies but no constructive work is attempted

in their cases aside from giving them temporary relief and urging them to keep employed and to earn as much as possible. Quite a number of these negro women are very old and have no earning capacity. There is no chance to do much for them as they will of necessity always be dependent. They are infirm cases and should be cared for in the county almshouse.

A study of these cases of widowhood shows the need of some form of pension for deserving widows who are left destitute with a number of small children to support and educate. Those who have investigated the subject most carefully are convinced that it costs the state less to pension a mother with young children, so that she may keep the family together, than to scatter the children in various institutions or to permit them to go without the protection and natural care of the mother, as they must do if she goes out to work. Then no institution however efficient can take the place of the home or perform the office of a mother of sound health and good character. A mother who rears normal healthy children and trains them so that they make desirable citizens has made an invaluable contribution to the state, and it is downright cruelty as well as an injustice to mark her and her children as paupers.

Desertion.

Desertion is in many ways more difficult to deal with than widowhood. When a family is deserted by the husband and father, and some charitable agency steps in promptly and cares for the family even better than they had been

accustomed to, the social effects may be bad. It may be that many a father is kept from abandoning his family for fear his children will suffer; when this fear is removed by a knowledge that some agency will take care of the children it may cause many a fellow who is wavering to leave home and shift the burden of supporting the family to other shoulders. Then it is always necessary to investigate each case carefully before deciding what is best to be done. It frequently happens that the deserting husband is worthless and that the family is better off without him. In such cases no effort should be made to get him to return. An illustrative case will be given. Mrs. W. was deserted by her husband several years ago. At the time he left there was only one small child in the family. After staying away for a time friends of the wife prevailed on the husband to return. He stayed with his wife till two more children were born, then eloped with another man's wife. In many cases by using a little diplomacy the trouble between husband and wife can be adjusted and the family saved. Of course, this is always the best plan where there can be any assurance that the husband will remain at home and do his duty. In other cases the husband should be arrested for wife abandonment and be compelled to support his family.

A number of illustrative cases will be given to show how this form of dependency is dealt with by the charitable agencies of Columbia.

The first case is that of a woman thirty-five years

old, the wife of a farmer in fairly good circumstances. This woman has five children, all but one of whom are under fourteen years of age. She claimed that her husband had driven her away from home and had refused to contribute anything to the support of the family. They came to Columbia in October, 1916 and the mother obtained work in the shoe factory where she was able to earn seven dollars a week, a sum entirely insufficient to support herself and children. In a very short time she was compelled to call on the Charity Organization Society for assistance. After the case was investigated help in the form of food, fuel, and clothing was given. Christian College also helped the family in various ways. In the meantime the woman sued her husband for a divorce. The suit was contested by the husband and it came out in the evidence that the husband was not entirely to blame. He testified that he had offered to support his wife and children even after they came to Columbia, and had in fact taken provisions to her home and that she had refused to receive what he had provided for her and the children. A mistake was made in giving this family even temporary aid. The husband was always willing for the wife to return home and for the sake of the children she should have been compelled to do so. As it is now the fourteen year old girl is permitted to go automobile riding with drunken hoodlums at all times either by day or night. The Charity Organization Society has withdrawn support from the family. If the other agencies that have been assisting do likewise it may compel the woman to return home.

Mrs. B. is a young negro woman of a rather high type. She is above the average of her race in intelligence. There are five children in this family all of whom are under ten years of age. B. deserted his family about six months ago. He told his wife when he left home that he was going to St. Louis to get work and that he would send for her and the children later. Instead of going to St. Louis he went to St. Paul, Minnisota and since going there has not contributed anything to the support of his family. Careful inquiry failed to reveal any cause for his act other than the common negro irresponsibility. The wife claimed that they got along very harmoniously and that there was no family quarrel when he went away. It is just a case of a worthless negro taking the easiest method of riding himself of the responsibility of supporting his family. The matter was reported to the chief of police of Columbia who in turn notified the authorities of St. Paul but nothing further was done. This family will have to be cared for by some charitable agency for several years. At the time this survey was made the Charity Organization Society was furnishing them food and fuel. The family was not known to any other agency.

Mrs. C., another negro woman was deserted by her husband a year ago. She is the mother of seven children, six girls and one boy. The oldest child is a girl of sixteen the youngest is a baby born since the father went away. The oldest girl has recently given birth to an illegitimate

child that evidently has a considerable intermixture of white blood. The combined earnings of this family amounts to about seven dollars a week when all who have any earning capacity are employed. No effort is being made to compel C. to return to his family or to contribute anything to their support. They are being cared for by the Charity Organization Society.

§ Mental Deficiency.

Mental deficiency is almost an insurmountable obstacle in the way of rehabilitating a dependent family. If the parents are mentally defective the chances are that there will be a number of feeble-minded children. If the father is mentally sub-normal this will in all probability so affect his earning capacity as to make him and his family chronically dependent. If the mother is feeble-minded it will make it impossible for her to become an efficient housekeeper. She will never be capable of giving her children the training and instruction that they should have. After such a couple have been permitted to marry and to bring children into the world there is very little that can be done aside from providing institutional care for the defective children, and even this is not always possible.

This survey revealed a number of borderline cases among the dependents and also a number that are decidedly feeble-minded. A few typical examples will be given. Ben S. and his wife and their eight year old girl are all feeble-minded. Ben is a low grade moron, his wife is an imbecile, and the girl is a low grade moron. They live in a one room

shack in Happy Hollow. The room in which the family cooks, eats, and sleeps is indescribably filthy. The bed clothing shows no indication that it has ever been washed. The old quilts and sheets are slimy with **grease** and dirt. However, the inmates are even more filthy than their dwelling, if such a thing could be possible. The woman in response to an inquiry on the subject said she could not remember whether she had ever taken a bath or not. From the general appearance of herself and the child it was very evident that baths in that household were like the visits of angels, few and far between. When Ben was remonstrated with for keeping such a dirty house, he replied that there was no use to clean up as it would soon get dirty again. The woman had been married twice, but she had forgotten the name of her first husband. Ben is able-bodied and in good health but he is so filthy and inefficient that no one would want to employ him. The Charity Organization Society occasionally gives them a little assistance. The child should be placed in an institution. If she is permitted to grow up in this home, she will, in all probability, become the mother of defective, illegitimate children just as soon as she reaches child-bearing age.

The next illustrative case is the wife of a coal miner. She is the mother of eight children. Some of the children appear to be normal while others are clearly mentally defective. This home was filthy in the extreme. This woman should never have been permitted to marry and bring

all of those children into the world. She lacks every qualification that a wife and mother should possess. The mother wants to give the younger children away, but it would be very difficult to find homes for them. No member of the Friendly Visiting Committee of the Charity Organization Society had ever been to see the family when the history of the case was made.

There is very little that can be done for such disabled families. They must continue to be a burden on society. Such pronounced cases of feeble-mindedness should be cared for in institutions where the sexes can be segregated, and where they would have no chance to reproduce their kind. In case there are not sufficient institutions to care for them all, then sterilization should be resorted to.

Columbia, in common with the rest of the state, is handicapped in the care of the feeble-minded by the lack of adequate state institutions. No one knows with any degree of certainty how many defectives there are in Missouri, but from the best information obtainable there are at least six thousand such unfortunates. Of course, in this number is included not only the idiot who is always entirely dependent, but also those mental defectives who are capable of making a living under favorable circumstances, but who are incapable, from mental defect existing from birth or from an early age, of competing on equal terms with their normal fellows, or of managing their affairs with ordinary prudence. Of the six thousand defectives said to be in Missouri the Colony for

the Feeble-minded at Marshall is prepared to care for less than six hundred. There are always more patients on the waiting list than can be cared for in the institution. Our wise legislators are always more interested in making appropriations to build monuments to dead statesmen than to provide adequate care for the unfortunate men, women, and children of the state.

Alfred Fairbank of St. Louis in an address before the Missouri Conference for Social Welfare in 1915 suggested the need of the following legislation on this subject:

"That the State Board of Charities and Corrections be authorized to act as a clearing house for all feeble-minded cases in the state, and that all social workers of the state be urged to write a short history of all feeble-minded persons known to them and send the names to the State Board. The passage of a law prohibiting the marriage of the feeble-minded. The enactment of legal machinery which would make possible the segregation and detention of the feeble-minded who prove dependent or delinquent." While all of this legislation is needed there is very little hope that any of it will be passed. We believe in enacting laws for the protection of fish and game, but the protection of the citizens of the state is quite a different matter.

Immorality.

People are usually quick to respond to a call of distress when the call comes from a worthy family. How-

ever, very few care to contribute their hard-earned money to support the lazy, shiftless, vicious, delinquent, and especially the sexually immoral. Several of the last mentioned type are being supported by the different charitable agencies of Columbia. A few typical examples will be given.

Daisy B. is a low immoral negress thirty years old, the mother of an illegitimate girl of eight. She lives in the very shadow of Boone County's hundred thousand dollar Court House. This woman has long been a notorious character. Her house is the favorite rendezvous of all the bootleggers, crapshooters, and criminals in that part of the city. She now has tuberculosis and is entirely dependent.

The P. family consists of an old crippled man and his wife. They are both of average intelligence. The woman claims to be related to several of the prominent families in the city. This statement, however, should not be taken at its face value because she is known to be a notorious liar. It is a matter of common knowledge that this old couple have run an assignation house for years. Their place has become so notorious at different times as to attract the notice of even the police. They are now entirely dependent, or at least are supposed to be. Their word cannot even be trusted on this question. A few years ago they tried to get help from the Charity Organization Society, but before their application had received favorable consider-

ation a sister of the old woman informed the Field Agent, that the family was far from being dependent, that they had several hundred dollars on deposit in a local bank at that time. This family should be broken up and the old people sent to the infirmary.

The low standard of morality among a certain class of negroes is too well known to deserve more than passing notice. The D. B. case previously referred to is not an isolated instance by any means. Six illegitimate children were found in one negro district. It is a well known fact that many negro couples are living together without having gone through any form of marriage ceremony. One social worker who has made a close study of the negro problem in Columbia gives it as his opinion that not one-half of the negro couples are legally married. However, it is only fair to state that the negroes are not the only sinners. A visit to any negro school in the city will convince the most skeptical that the white man is partly to blame for the immorality among the negro population. It is now very difficult to find a full blood negro child in this city. You have only to inquire of some of these negro children in regard to their parents to be informed that their "daddy is a white man." It is unfortunate that these immoral negro women cannot be sent to the county infirmary and properly segregated and guarded so that they would no longer have a chance to propagate their kind.

Ignorance and Inefficiency.

As has already been stated, ignorance and general inefficiency was found to be an important factor in almost every case of dependency studied. If a man is out of employment, it is usually because he is not qualified to do anything but the hardest kind of manual labor. If wages are low, it is often found that the laborer is being paid all that he is worth. If people are sick, it is frequently because they are ignorant of even the simplest laws of health. If women are untidy, incompetent housekeepers, it is often because they have never been taught how to do any better.

Here is where some real constructive work can be done, especially with the children. The report of the city superintendent of schools shows that the average attendance for all the public schools of the city is ninety-three per cent of the enrollment. This, however, does not take into account the number of children who have never been enrolled. The survey showed that ten per cent of the 169 children of school age among the dependents were not in school.

The Charity Organization Society makes a special effort to see that no child stays out of school for the want of suitable clothing. The Field Agent does not wait till the parents of such children call for assistance. If it is brought to his attention that some child is out of school because of the lack of clothes an investigation is made and the need supplied.

However, most of these children quit school just as soon as they reach the age of fourteen and as a consequence are very poorly qualified for the duties of citizenship. It is a significant fact that none of the adult dependents ever finished the eight elementary grades of the common schools. This is proof enough that education pays. No doubt there is some foundation for the growing feeling that the public school is not meeting adequately the demands of the present day. Something might be done to remedy this defect by introducing trade and industrial teaching. Indiana has a system of vocational schools designated to meet the needs of children **over fourteen** who have decided what occupation they wish to follow and who must begin at an early age to prepare for their life work rather than finish the high school. These schools have done much to supply a felt need.

What can be done for the men and women who have neglected their education? A system of night schools especially designed for this class might do much good if they could be induced to attend and to take advantage of the opportunity offered them. One of the most practical aids for the women and ^{one} that could be easily given in connection with the work of the Charity Organization Society is that of a visiting housekeeper. The work of the visiting housekeeper would be to **help** the mothers to prepare food, suggesting quantity, variety, and quality; to prepare this food economically

and tastefully; to get the **maximum** amount of nourishment out of the supplies purchases; to keep the house in order; to ventilate properly; to prepare a diet for the sick, and to care for the baby. Some of this work is now being done by the members of the Friendly Visiting Committee of the Charity Organization Society, but it cannot be done very efficiently under this plan. It would be very much better to employ a competent woman who could devote all of her time to the work.

Unemployment.

When laborers earn less than \$1.50 a day, it is very easy to understand that the loss of only a few days will bring them face to face with want. To help the laboring class to be self-supporting, it is necessary to see that they have regular employment at a living wage. The problem of dependency in this city always becomes acute in the winter when work is scarce. The municipality could do much to remedy this matter. There is always a large surplus in the treasury of the water and light plant and the need for extending the mains and improving the service is very great. The contracts for doing this work could be let for the winter months when the problem of unemployment is most acute. This would furnish work for a number of men who otherwise would be unemployed. Such a scheme has been proposed by one of the **members** of the City Council and has received the endorsement of the Charity Organization Society. If this

plan is adopted, it will do much to solve the problem of dependency in Columbia.

The Poor Law.

Fifteen per cent of all the dependent families studied had been in the city for less than twelve months when their first application for assistance was made. The records showed that many of them applied for help in a few weeks after coming to Columbia. There is a good deal of evidence to show that some of these dependent families came to Columbia to get the benefit of the Conley Poor Fund. There should be a law that would compel every county and municipality to take care of their own poor till they had acquired a legal residence somewhere else. This would do much to stop the transportation of dependents from one community to another. Under present conditions if there is a dependent family anywhere out in the county it becomes an easy matter to make up money and send them to Columbia where there is an efficient Charity Organization Society and a special poor fund. There is no question that poor people who come here and receive aid pass the good word along to their dependent kin.

A Support Law.

Many of these dependents have relatives who are abundantly able to help support them, but under our laws nothing can be done to compel them to perform their natural obligations towards their indigent kin. A law is needed that would compel those who are able, to do their part

towards supporting their unfortunate relatives. The Charity Organization Society has been helping a woman who has a brother who is said to be worth \$30,000.

A Marriage Law.

Some significance must be attached to the fact that approximately seventy-five per cent of all dependent men and women studied married before they were of legal age. In Missouri it is possible for a boy of fourteen and a girl of twelve to marry without either license or marriage ceremony. Such a condition is a disgrace to our boasted civilization. There should be some radical changes in our marriage laws. The common law marriage should be entirely forbidden and the present license law so amended that children under legal age could not obtain a license either with or without the consent of their parents.

Illegitimacy.

In justice to the unfortunate children our laws should be so amended that parenthood would be equivalent to marriage. Under our present statutes the mother of an illegitimate child practically has no recourse if she is over the age of consent. If parenthood was made equivalent to marriage and, in the case where either the man or the woman was already married, to bigamy, it might serve to prevent such sexual immorality. When the father of the illegitimate child is white and the mother a negress he could be prosecuted for contracting a marriage with a color-

ed woman.

Summary.

The following is a summary of the main features of the dependent situation in Columbia with reference to the principal causes of dependency and treatment:

During the year 1916 seventy-one white and twenty-nine negro families in Columbia were not able to function normally and were given assistance in the form of food, fuel, clothing, and medicine. During the same period the Charity Organization Society distributed eight hundred dollars worth of old clothes. Most of the second-hand clothing went to what might be called border line cases, people who were not at that time considered sufficiently dependent to be given any other form of relief. Eighty of the one hundred families were known to only one agency, twenty were known to and received aid from two agencies.

The principal causes of dependency were found to be sickness, other than tuberculosis, tuberculosis, chronic physical disability, widowhood, desertion, unemployment, mental deficiency, crippled condition, immorality, ignorance, and general inefficiency.

The average weekly wages of the men was \$7.50 that of the women \$3.35. Forty washerwomen earned on an average \$2.65 a week.

Fifty-four men and women among the dependents were entirely illiterate, while forty claimed to be able to read and write. Of the 397 people sharing the relief given, 169 were children under fourteen years of age, ten per cent of

whom were not in school at the time the survey was made.

Chapter III.

THE CARE OF DEPENDENT AND NEGLECTED CHILDREN.

There is very little chance to do much for the sixteen individuals classified as old. Their lives are about lived out and they have accomplished about all for either good or ill that they can ever hope to accomplish. All that can be done for them is to see that they are fed, clothed, housed, and not neglected when sick.

Even men and women of middle age have their habits pretty well fixed. If their education has been neglected, it will usually be too late to correct this mistake. The cares of a family will usually make it impossible for them to go to school and to secure the training necessary to make them efficient. If they have formed habits of idleness or shiftlessness, these habits will have become so firmly fixed that they will be extremely hard to break. If they have become dissipated, it will be next to impossible to get them to reform.

The most hopeful subjects with which the social worker has to deal are the children, because they afford a much greater opportunity for real constructive work. However, the young life contains untold possibilities for either good or evil; hence there is a chance to do a great work in dealing with dependent and neglected children if the right methods are used, but grave dangers if the life of the child

is misdirected. In years to come these children will profit by the good work now being done for them or suffer because of present neglect or of unwise methods. Most of these dependent and neglected children if taken in time can be trained to become useful citizens. Their case is by no means hopeless. In dealing with children, entirely too little attention is given to prevention. The boy is permitted to run wild on the street without any parental restraint. No agency or authority pays the least attention to him or takes any interest in him until he commits some crime; then he is arrested and placed in jail with hardened criminals of all kinds. When his case comes to trial he is arraigned and tried in the same court and under the same rules of evidence that obtains in the trial of the adult criminal. If convicted he is sent to the penitentiary, the reformatory, or placed on probation. If he serves a term in prison he will usually come out of that school of crime a full course graduate. If he is placed on probation he is often permitted to return home and mingle freely with the same companions that were the cause of his criminal act. Nothing is done to secure his reformation beyond having him make a perfunctory report to the judge at stated intervals.

Several such cases are found in Columbia at the present time. One will be given which is a fair sample of all the rest.

The H. family have been paupers for a number of years. The husband and father is a shiftless old drunkard;

his wife is a drug fiend and a confirmed loafer and beggar. Their twelve year old son was recently convicted of burglary and larceny and sentenced to the reform school at Boonville till he becomes of age. The court granted him a parole but instead of requiring that he be sent to the country where he could be made to work, permitted him to return home. He is now loafing with the same class that got him into trouble before. The chances are that he will soon commit another crime and finally land in the penitentiary. By just a little effort this boy could be placed in the family of some farmer who would be glad to get his help. Here he would be well treated and at the same time removed from temptation.

This survey showed that a number of girls are now living in Columbia under such conditions that only a miracle can prevent their ruin. Nothing is being done to rescue these girls from their environment in time to save them from a life of shame. It takes society a long time to learn that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

A few years ago there lived in this city a winsome little girl under such conditions that could result only in her ultimate ruin. Her parents were immoral and kept a low class of immoral men and women around them all the time. A social worker did everything in her power to get some one to make a complaint to the court and to institute such legal proceedings as would be necessary to take the

child from her parents. The neighbors, who knew of the immoral conditions in the home, refused to act for fear of incurring the enmity of the dissolute father. The police were appealed to, but they refused to take any action. Nothing was done and the expected happened. The girl soon went wrong and has ever since been a notorious character. Her name was connected with one of the worst murder cases that has ever been tried in the local court. She has cost the county hundreds of dollars in court costs. There is no telling how many girls she has helped to lead astray or how many men and boys she has infected with venereal diseases. She is still in the city plying her trade without let or hindrance from any authority.

This poor girl is more to be pitied than blamed. She was a victim of her bad home environment. She was never given a chance to make anything out of herself. Now she is making society pay a heavy toll for its neglect. How much better it would have been for all concerned if this girl had been taken from her immoral parents while she was an innocent child and placed in a good foster home where she would have had an opportunity to grow up into a virtuous self-respecting woman.

The case just mentioned is not an isolated instance by any means. One of the most intelligent and efficient social workers in the city is authority for the statement that there are in Columbia at the present time more than a **score** of girls who are living in an environment that will finally result in their ruin.

The H. family, previously referred to, have three unmarried daughters, G., B., and L., aged sixteen, thirteen, and eleven respectively. The oldest of the girls was entirely neglected and finally became so incorrigible that it was necessary to send her to the Industrial Home for Girls at Chillicothe. L. is at home and if something is not done for her in the near future she will almost inevitably follow in the footsteps of her older sister. The more pleasing and hopeful case of B. will be discussed in another connection.

As has already been stated that in the one hundred dependent families studied there were one hundred and sixty-nine children under fourteen years of age. Brought up in such homes, these children have little chance to become law abiding, independent, self-respecting citizens. Breathing an air of dependency from birth, reared in homes where the usual thing is to send a child to a charity agent with an order for groceries, it will be the most natural thing in the world for them to drift into dependency as soon as they are grown. It is from this class that the state's dependents, defectives, and delinquents are largely recruited.

Ten per cent. of all the children under fourteen were not in school at the time the survey was made. Entire families were found where none of the children had ever been to school a day in their lives. The parents of these children usually gave as an excuse for not sending them to school either sickness or lack of suitable clothing. The facts are,

however, that the fathers and mothers are perfectly illiterate and make no effort to keep their children in school. The favorite expression among these people is, "That education is ruining the world." With this notion firmly fixed in their minds, they are doing all they can to rescue the world from impending ruin.

The D. family consists of the father, the mother, and six children. None of the family can either read or write. The children have never been sent to school. The parents gave as an excuse for not sending them, lack of suitable clothing. They had been warned by the truant officer but paid no attention to the warning. No steps were being taken to enforce the compulsory attendance law.

There are eight children in the G. family, five of them of school age. None of these children was in school when the family was visited. The parents claimed that they were not able to furnish the children suitable clothes and for that reason had not sent them to school. The father and mother are both entirely illiterate and take no interest in the education of their children. This home was very dirty and unsanitary. All of the children showed they they had been badly neglected.

Something should be done for these children. If the parents persist in refusing to send them to school, the compulsory attendance law should be enforced. If the children have not suitable clothing and the parents are unable to provide them, then the district should supply the need.

Clothing and books could be bought by the district and paid for out of the incidental fund. It would likely be possible in almost all cases to get the Mothers' Clubs to furnish clothing for the destitute children in their ward. It would even be better to break up some of these homes and place the children in good foster homes than to permit them to grow up in idleness and ignorance. In some of the worst cases no difficulty would be encountered in getting possession of the children. Indeed, the parents are anxious to get rid of the responsibility of rearing them.

Of course, it is always a serious thing to take children out of their natural homes and this should never be done except as a last resort. However, in some cases nothing more fortunate could happen to the children than to be taken from under the jurisdiction of their parents. This would seem to be the case not only in immoral homes but also in homes where no attempt is being made to give the children the advantages of an education.

The problem of the abandoned child and that of the child that is being reared in a home that is notoriously immoral is even more serious than that of the child that is simply neglected. A number of such children were found. A few illustrative cases will be given.

Henry T. is a little four year old boy. His father and mother are separated but not divorced. The father is an idle irresponsible fellow and his mother is said to be immoral. When they deserted the child he was taken by an uncle and

aunt. These people, however, are dependent a good part of the time. They have a large family of their own and are by no means able to furnish the child a home. When the family was visited, the house was found to be unusually dirty and filthy. Henry was ragged and dirty and showed that he was badly neglected. He should be taken out of this home and be placed in a private home or sent to an institution.

Helen M. is a bright six year old girl living with the D. family to whom reference has been made. Her father and mother are divorced and her mother is married again. The step-father refuses to let Helen stay at home. The D. woman is feeble minded and wants to give her own children away, so it is evidently no place for this child. The Child Welfare Committee has taken an interest in the case and has secured the father's consent to take the child away from her present home. This committee will use every effort to place the child where she will receive proper care.

Agnes B. is an eleven year old illegitimate mulatto girl. Her mother is one of the lowest types of her race. She has long been a police character, but is now a victim of tuberculosis. There is no one to teach this child any of the things that she should know. It would be difficult to imagine a girl of her age being placed in a worse environment. The child should be sent to an orphanage and the mother to the infirmary. However, neither is possible under existing conditions. The county makes no provision for the care of negro women in the almshouse and the state has no institution where neglected negro girls can be cared

for. It is necessary for them to become delinquents before the state will make any provisions for their care.

Forest C. is the twelve year old son of an immoral negress. The boy is large for his age and is already a typical negro tough. His favorite amusement is throwing stones at his mother. The woman keeps such an immoral house that the decent negroes in the neighborhood have made complaint. Her house is headquarters for crapshooters, bootleggers, and prostitutes. In such a school Forest will prove an apt pupil and in a short time will graduate into the penitentiary. Nothing is likely to be done for him till he becomes a delinquent.

The last illustrative case of neglected children that will be given is that of three negro children, two girls aged ten and twelve, and a boy of eight. They live in an old house near the county jail. At the time the investigation was made the father had deserted the family and the mother was in jail. The children claimed not to know the nature of their mother's crime. These little negroes were living all alone. The older girl was a dish-washer at a hotel and was making her own living, the other children had to depend for their food on what this girl could beg or steal from the hotel. The boy was a bright chap and showed a considerable admixture of white blood. On being asked if he was a negro or a white boy he replied: "Half white and half 'Nigger! father white and mother black."

Having stated in some detail what is being left undone in the care of dependent and neglected children, an attempt will now be made to show what is being done for them. The chief agency that has taken an interest in this work is the Child Welfare Committee of the Charity Organization Society. During last year (1916) this committee cared for fifteen children. Some of them were placed in private homes while others were sent to institutions.

To give an idea of the work that this committee is doing a number of illustrative cases will be given.

The first case dealt with was that of Robert and Francis W. aged thirteen and eleven. The father of these boys is a criminal and has served two terms in the Missouri penitentiary. He was first convicted and sentenced to serve a term of seven years for forgery. His wife died soon after he was sent to prison. Soon after his release from prison he married his dead wife's sister. In a short time after his second marriage he stole a horse and was returned to the penitentiary. A short time after his incarceration his wife gave birth to twins. The Friendly Visiting Society of the Charity Organization Society tried for a while to hold the family together but finally gave up the struggle. The boys soon showed a decided tendency to steal and the step-mother could not control them. Through the efforts of the Friendly Visiting Committee good homes were found for both boys.

The younger boy, Francis, was placed with a farmer

in Boone County. He proved to be industrious and obedient. He gave his foster parents no trouble and is now contented and happy in his new home. The older boy, Robert, proved much harder to handle than his brother. He was placed in a good home but soon became incorrigible and his foster father sent him back to his step-mother. He was then placed in the hands of an agent of the Missouri Home-finding Society.

The second illustrative case is that of Bettie L. and her children. Mrs. L. was taken from an orphanage while young and adopted by a wealthy farmer. When she grew to womanhood she married a worthless farm hand who had been employed on her father's farm. Three children were born in rapid succession. Soon after the birth of the last child the worthless father deserted his family. The foster parents were bitterly opposed to the marriage, therefore declined to have anything more to do with Bettie. She then came to Columbia and for a time supported herself and two of the children, the other child being cared for by a friend. After a time the woman was found to be suffering from a venereal disease; then some of the members of the Friendly Visiting Committee of the Charity Organization Society became interested in the helpless family and succeeded in getting them admitted to the Christian Orphans' Home in St. Louis.

The third case is that of the Gran. J. family, consisting of father, mother, and eight children. The wife and

one child died recently with tuberculosis. Since the death of Mrs. J. the children have been dealt with as follows: May, age thirteen, is hairlipped and has a defective palate. Several charitable agencies in the city took an interest in the unfortunate girl, raised money and sent her to a hospital in St. Louis for an operation. She made an uneventful recovery, but was apparently little benefited. She has been placed in several homes but her defective speech makes her unsatisfactory and she is invariably sent back. She is now living at Columbia with her father.

Lulu J. had appendicitis and was sent to Parker Memorial Hospital for an operation. Her recovery was very slow and she now has symptoms of tuberculosis. This child's hearing is defective and the County Court sent her to the school for the Deaf and Dumb at Fulton, Missouri. She made rapid progress in her studies and her hearing improved so much that at the end of the second year she was discharged as cured. She is now at home. This girl should be sent to the state sanitorium while there is a chance to do something for her.

R. J. owns a few acres of land in Happy Hollow. He is described as being a shiftless, trifling, worthless, degenerate. His wife was a B., a member of the notorious B. family which has furnished so many dependents, defectives, and delinquents for Columbia. Three children were born to this union. When the youngest child was one year old Mrs. J. eloped with another man. The father kept the children

together till the girls had reached the adolescent period; then it became apparent that incestuous relations existed in the home. The oldest girl was taken from the father and placed in a good Christian home. She is now a junior in one of the high schools of the state. She is loved by her foster parents and respected by all who know her. After she finished high school she expects to come to the University of Missouri and prepare herself for the teacher's profession.

Unfortunately the twelve year old sister did not turn out so well. She was placed with a widow in the country. At the end of the first year that she was in this home it was necessary to send her back to her father on account of her immoral conduct. After staying at home a short time her mother came and took her away. This, no doubt, means for her a life of shame as her mother is notoriously immoral. The youngest child was rescued in time and now has a good home with an old couple in the country.

Brooxie H., to whom reference has already been made, was taken from her immoral, poverty stricken home and placed in a splendid home in Monroe County. Her foster parents are much attached to her and treat her as a member of the family and not as a mere servant. She goes to school regularly and her teacher reports that she is a diligent and obedient student. Thus by just a little effort a child was saved who would have gone to ruin if she had been left in her own home.

The social workers of the city have to face many dis-

couragements in dealing with dependent and neglected children. At times it seems that very little can be done for them. After long and persistent efforts a child is placed in a good home; the social worker breathes a sigh of relief in the belief that the difficulties are at last over; that the child now has a good home and a fair chance. However, in a short time the foster parents report that the boy or girl is lazy, immoral, or disobedient and that it will be impossible for them to keep the child. When this occurs the weary search for a suitable home must be begun all over again.

After all, it is not surprising that this should be the history of so many cases. The wonder is that any of them prove satisfactory to those who take them. It must be borne in mind that the great majority of these children come from homes where such things as education, culture, and refinement are practically unknown. They have been familiar with profanity all their lives. They have never had half a chance to learn to be decent and to do right. It is no wonder that in so many cases they should be considered incorrigible and fit subjects for the reformatory.

Yet it must not be forgotten that all of these children are worth saving and that the surest way to save them is to see that they have good homes. However, past experience has shown that in most cases it is useless to take these children out of the homes where they have been reared and to place them directly in foster homes and to expect

the arrangement to be satisfactory and permanent.

It would seem that the only solution of the problem is to take these dependent and neglected children and give them a course of training before they are placed out. This would enable them to adapt themselves to the new environment and would do much to insure satisfactory results. Very few of them are inherently vicious or immoral. They simply have never had a chance to learn how to work and to obey.

Chapter IV.

THE CARE OF THE DESTITUTE SICK.

People are frequently dependent because they are ignorant and sick. Any system of philanthropy to be at all effective must take into consideration these two chief sources of dependency. In the one hundred families covered by this survey, the chief cause of dependency in one-third of all the cases was found to be acute illness. If to acute illness be added the fifteen cases of chronic physical disability and the seven cases of feeble-mindedness, then more than one-half of all the dependency in Columbia during the period studied (1916) will be found to be due to sickness alone, or to sickness in combination with other causes such as low wages, irregular employment, and widowhood.

If a family is dependent because of the illness of the chief bread-winner, the rational thing for the charitable agency to do, after supplying the immediate needs of the family, is to seek by every means possible to restore the sick man to health in order that he may be able to work to support his family. However, something more than this is frequently necessary. It may be of little use to cure the disease if nothing is done to remove the cause and thus to prevent its recurrence. The man's condition may

be due to personal causes such as the neglect of the ordinary laws of health, or it may be due to bad sanitation, bad water supply, or to bad conditions in the shop or factory where he is employed. Any constructive program must see to it that not only is the patient cured but that the cause of the disease is removed.

The fact that a large percentage of the dependency in Columbia is due to acute illness is a strong indication that there must be something wrong with sanitary conditions in the city. Then it must be remembered that Columbia has an epidemic of Typhoid fever almost every summer and that thousands of students who come here to attend the University of Missouri find it expedient, if not absolutely necessary, to take immunizing treatment as a protection against this disease.

Of course, it must be admitted that much of the sickness among the poor is due to personal causes. When people live in dirt and filth and pay no attention to the laws of health, it is no wonder that they are sick. When one visits the homes of a majority of these dependents, he does not wonder that so many of them should be sick, but rather that any of them should be well. They seem to be entirely unacquainted with the use of soap and water. One mother when asked why she did not give her little girl a bath, replied that she had been thinking something about it but was afraid the child would cry if she attempted to wash her face. This child was simply reeking with dirt and the

vermin were dropping from her hair.

These people do not take any precaution to prevent the spread of disease. Those who have tuberculosis expectorate wherever it comes handiest, in spite of the fact that they have been warned of the danger by the Visiting Nurse. They throw all kinds of garbage into the yard, when they do not find it more convenient to throw it on the floor. Flies swarm in the house and on the food without any attempt being made to keep them out.

Another fruitful cause of sickness in Columbia is bad housing conditions. Of the one hundred or more homes visited, not more than four or five of the houses could be classified as fair in regard to sanitation. The greater part of them were decidedly bad and some did not deserve to be called houses at all. Very few of these houses are provided with screens. Most of these poor people are compelled to depend on old wells and cisterns for their water supply. Many of the houses are located in close proximity to open sewers. Overcrowding is common. Large families cook, eat, and sleep in one or two little rooms. These rooms are frequently shared with the dogs, cats, and chickens. These filthy unsanitary shacks are veritable breeding places for tuberculosis, typhoid fever, and all manner of diseases.

The public is wont to sympathize with the sick. The wealthy are willing to give their money to relieve their needs, yet little is done to remove the root of the

evil. Were our poor given good housing conditions, were they provided with living apartments that would permit the enjoyment of fresh air not polluted by the filth and stench of **sewage** or the close proximity of open privy vaults, much of the distress that we are now called upon to administer to would be avoided. The most practical way to teach these people to be clean, careful, and self-respecting would be first of all to provide them with decent houses.

Many of the worst houses inspected are owned by prominent business and professional men of the city. For these unsightly, unsanitary hovels, high rent is charged and the owners require that all rent be paid by the week in advance. One year's rent in many cases would be quite the worth of the house. Some of the worst houses visited are in Happy Hollow and **many** of them are said to be owned by a prominent **physician**.

Until these conditions are improved Columbia may expect to be burdened with a great many dependent sick every year, and there seems to be little chance for improvement so long as good money can be made from the rent of these shacks. The ministers are not likely to say much about housing conditions in Columbia when they know that some of their prominent church members are **the chief** sinners. They find it very much safer to preach about conditions in New York or Chicago or to tell their congregations about the beautiful **mansions** in the skies. The newspapers will ~~not~~ publish the facts for fear of offending

a good advertiser. The Commercial Club is more interested in doing something to make the town boom than to improve the condition of the people already here. The City Council would rather take the money out of the water and light fund and use it for other purposes than to extend the mains so as to provide city water for the tenement districts.

An attempt will now be made to show what is being done for the destitute sick by the different social agencies.

There is a competent physician employed by the City Council and the County Court. The work of the physician is done under the supervision of the Charity Organization Society. When a dependent family needs the services of a doctor they make application to the Field Agent of the Charity Organization Society. An investigation of the case is made and if the applicant is found to be in need the Field Agent directs the city physician to take charge and to give whatever service is necessary. For such service the physician is paid one dollar a visit or about one-half the regular fee. In ordinary cases the physician is expected to furnish his own medicine. During the year covered by this survey (1916) the physician made one hundred and sixty-nine calls. The cost of this service was fourteen dollars a month.

This arrangement insures that the destitute sick will not be entirely neglected. However, such a system is only a makeshift. A busy doctor ^{who} is paid only half price for his work among the poor will not likely give them the

same attention that he would if he was being paid the regular fee. Then even if he were sufficiently altruistic to give them the best possible service, it is placing too much of a burden on one man. The physician would not have time to take care of his own practice and at the same time answer all calls among the poor.

However, it must be understood that the city physician does not do anything like all the practice among the destitute sick. Many of the other physicians give freely of their time and ability to relieve cases of illness among the poor without any hope of reward. A free medical dispensary is badly needed, and this may be provided in the future by Parker Memorial Hospital in connection with the work of the Medical College. When this dispensary is established the poor of Columbia will have free medical care by a staff of experts.

The Visiting Nurse.

The visiting nurse is indispensable in the care of the destitute sick. Perhaps it would be easier to get along without a doctor than without a competent nurse. She enters the home and receives a welcome that no one else can hope to get. This is because not only the patient, but the entire family look to her for advice and sympathy. She comes into the sick room with valuable lessons for the tired mother who is trying to attend to her household duties and at the same time nurse a sick child. She gives advice to the father who after a hard day's work is compelled to

sit up all night with a sick wife. She not only gives advice but often relieves the tired watchers and stays with the patient day and night until the crisis is past. She not only tries to cure the sick, but she also teaches the ignorant and careless how to prevent sickness. She suggests that screens would keep out the flies and thus prevent the spread of disease. She teaches ignorant mothers that fried potatoes and cabbage are not the proper sort of diet for the baby. She warns the tubercular father that promiscuous spitting may endanger the health of his entire family. She teaches the lessons of self-reliance and responsibility that so many charitable efforts do so much to destroy.

Columbia is fortunate in having the service of a competent visiting nurse. She is employed by the Charity Organization Society at a salary of \$900 a year. She does her work under the direct supervision of the Anti-Tuberculosis Committee of the above named society to whom she makes detailed monthly reports of her work. An example of these reports will give some idea of the nature and scope of her work.

Report of Visiting Nurse for the Month of January 1916.

1. Total number of visits for the month-----	217
To tubercular patients-----	88
To non-tubercular patients-----	75
To physicians-----	4
Other visits-----	50

2.	Total number of days on duty-----	231
3.	Average number of visits daily-----	8
4.	Average number of hours on duty daily-----	8
5.	Number of tubercular patients,	
	Old, white-----	27
	Old, colored-----	12
	New, white-----	0
	New, colored-----	0
6.	Number of non-tubercular patients,	
	Old, white-----	15
	Old, colored-----	0
	New, white-----	6
	New, colored-----	0
	Dismissed as cured-----	9
	Number of deaths from tuberculosis-----	1
	From other diseases-----	1
7.	Number of patients that have left town -----	0
8.	Number of patients now on visiting list-----	51
9.	Number of baths given-----	9

Report of Visiting Nurse for the Month of July 1916

1.	Total number of visits for the month-----	210
	To tubercular patients-----	95
	To non-tubercular patients-----	85
	To physicians-----	5
	Other visits-----	25

2.	Number of days on duty-----	21
3.	Average number of visits daily-----	10
4.	Average number of hours on duty daily-----	8
5.	Number of tubercular patients,	
	Old, white-----	20
	Old, colored-----	9
	New, white-----	0
	New, colored-----	1
6.	Non-tubercular patients,	
	Old, white-----	4
	Old, colored-----	0
	New, white-----	4
	New, colored-----	0
7.	Dismissed as cured-----	3
8.	Number of deaths from tuberculosis-----	5
9.	Number of deaths from other diseases-----	0
10.	Number of patients left town-----	0
11.	Number now on visiting list-----	26
12.	Number of baths given-----	10

Perhaps an even better idea of the extent and nature of the work may be obtained by a study of the following annual report for eleven months of the year 1916. The nurse was on her vacation during the month of August, hence the report includes only eleven months.

Annual Report of the Visiting Nurse for the Year 1916

1.	Total number of visits for the year-----	2188
2.	Total number of days on duty-----	231

3. Average number of hours per day on duty--- 8
4. Average number of visits per day----- 9

Work under the direction of a physician.

1. Baths given-----92
2. Patients sleeping out of doors-----15
3. Patients provided with cots and tents----- 4
4. Total number of tubercular patients,
White-----30
Colored-----12
5. Total number of non-tubercular patients,
White-----26
Colored----- 4

Patients removed from the visiting list.

1. Left town-----19
2. Discharged as cured-----100
3. Died----- 11

A few concrete cases illustrating some phases of the work done by the Visiting Nurse will be given.

Blanche A. is a motherless little girl thirteen years old. When first visited by the nurse she was found to be suffering from incipient tuberculosis. The home was very dirty and **unsanitary**. This child was playing the part of "little mother" to the younger children and they were all in great danger of becoming infected. The nurse at once enlisted the help of the Mothers' Class of the Christian Sunday School. The ladies of this class made clothing for the children and provided temporary care

for the patient. The matter was then reported to the County Court and the girl was sent to the state sanatorium at Mount Vernon. She responded to the treatment given in the sanatorium and her recovery was rapid from the first. But for the work of the nurse this child would have died.

Two children were sick in the same family; when the nurse made her first visit they were occupying the same bed. The diagnosis showed that one of the children had pneumonia and the other typhoid. The parents were unaware that there was any danger of these children infecting each other. The nurse took charge of the case and almost literally remained with the patients day and night till the danger was past.

Many more illustrative cases might be given, but these are thought to be sufficient to show the general nature of the work of the Visiting Nurse.

The Health Committee.

The Health Committee is a joint committee of the Charity Organization Society and the Civic League. Their work is not to administer to the sick, but rather to improve health conditions so that there will be fewer sick to administer to. The following is a brief summary of the work of this committee for the past year.

They made a careful survey of districts needing water and sewerage connection and made a report to the City Council urging action. They drafted a model health ordin-

ence and secured its adoption by the City Council. This ordinance provides for:

A Sanitary Inspector and Board of Health.

Refuse and garbage disposal.

Licensed scavengers.

Removal of weeds from premises.

Protection of food-stuffs.

Prohibition of spitting in public places.

Protection against communicable diseases.

Suitable penalties for breaking the ordinances.

Chapter V.

PRIVATE AGENCIES FOR THE RELIEF OF THE DEPENDENT CLASSES
IN COLUMBIA.

The principal private agency for the relief of the dependent classes in Columbia is the Charity Organization Society. This society was organized in 1901 and incorporated in 1911. It now has the power to receive and administer bequests, to sue and be sued, and to perform such other functions as may legally come within the province of such an incorporation.

The purposes of the Charity Organization Society as set forth in its constitution are as follows:

- I. "To organize and to bring into harmonious co-operation all the various charitable agencies of the city, both public and private, and thus prevent the overlapping of relief.
- II. To investigate thoroughly the cases of all applicants for relief.
- III. To maintain a bureau of registration wherein records of all cases applying for relief shall be carefully preserved.
- IV. To maintain a body of friendly visitors who shall visit the poor in their homes and by personal interest and sympathy encourage them in habits

of thrift, independence, and industry, thus helping them to help themselves.

V. To find employment when possible for those able to work.

VI. To obtain from the city authorities and from charitable individuals suitable and adequate relief for the deserving cases, and to receive donations, bequests, and devises of real and personal property.

VII. To take other means necessary to ameliorate the condition of the poor and to remove causes of distress and dependency, and to act as a non-sectarian institution, as a custodian for neglected children, and as custodian of children whose parents are habitually intemperate or immoral."

The Society is under the direction of twenty Directors elected annually by those who contribute as much as one dollar a year to any of its enterprises. The Directors hold monthly meetings from September till June, such meetings being held on the first Monday in each month. The Directors employ a Field Agent, A Visiting Nurse, and appoint six standing committees as follows: Friendly Visiting, Special Decisions, Anti-Tuberculosis, Health, Child Welfare, and Finance. Other committees are appointed when the necessity arises. The work of each committee will be discussed in the proper place.

The first object of the Society is to secure the co-

operation of all the other charitable agencies of the city and thus prevent duplication of relief. As might have been expected, considerable opposition was met with and much prejudice had to be overcome before this object could be attained. This is not to be wondered at, because the Society stands for modern constructive social methods, whereas society, for the most part is still medieval in its conception of charity. Most people look upon charity as simply giving people something, and they mean thereby food, fuel, clothing, medicine, or shelter. It takes the average citizen a long time to learn that while the poor need food and clothing, it often happens that they need sympathy, courage, intelligence, a plan and a spirit of hope from their fellow men much more.

The traditional conservatism of the church had to be overcome. To many good Christian men and women it seems incongruous if not unchristian to organize charity. They have an idea that the only true charity is that which is personal, simple, and direct, and that we should not let our left hands know what our right hands are doing. Even now after fifteen years of usefulness, it is by no means uncommon to hear some good citizen say, "When I want to give the poor anything I give it without asking them a lot of fool questions." However, it may be safely said that the first aim of the Society has been pretty well achieved. There is now hearty co-operation between the Charity Organ-

ization Society and practically all of the other social agencies of the city.

The Charity Organization Society is used to a considerable extent as a confidential exchange by the other agencies that do work among the poor, as well as by individuals. The purpose of this is to find out what agency is interested in some family or some particular member of the family. For example, at Christmas time a representative from one of the Sunday Schools came to the office of the Field Agent and asked permission for her class to help a family where there are a number of small children. The young woman who made the request was told that the needs of this family were being supplied by the Sunday School of another church. However, the name of another family just as worthy and fully as needy was given to the young lady with the request that her class do something for them. Thus both of these Sunday School classes were enlisted in the good work and at the same time duplication of effort was prevented.

Another object of the Charity Organization Society is to obtain temporary employment for those who are able and willing to work. A special effort is made to find out all sources of employment in the city and surrounding community. When men and women are out of work they are directed to go to the office of the Field Agent where every effort is made to secure employment for them. Employ-

ers in need of laborers apply to the society for men. Women in need of a servant girl, a washerwoman, or a nurse girl, come to the Field Agent to secure such help. When a family applies for assistance and gives unemployment as the cause of their distress, temporary aid is given them, then a persistent effort is made to find work for both husband and wife.

It not infrequently happens that these people are out of employment simply because they are indolent and make no effort to find work. In such cases when employment is found for them and they refuse to take advantage of the opportunity offered, all assistance is withdrawn until they show some disposition to help themselves. The following examples will illustrate the policy of the Society in dealing with such cases.

Mrs. F. had been receiving assistance for several months. She is a strong healthy woman and has no small children. A place was found for her where she could go out and work every day. The work was light and the wages good. Instead of being grateful for the opportunity to help make her own living, she very independently and even indignantly informed the lady that wished to employ her that she was not in the habit of working for other people. The next time she sent for a bill of groceries her request was refused and she was told the reason for the refusal.

If a man is out of work and in need, it is the policy of the Society to go security for him at the grocers

and to use every means to keep him from becoming pauperised. If the man is honest, he will pay the bill as soon as he finds employment and earns sufficient money. If he is dishonest, the Society will have an **excellent** excuse for refusing his next request for aid.

Another purpose of the Society is to investigate carefully all cases that apply for relief. The application for assistance is sometimes made by a friend of the dependent family, sometimes by charitably inclined people who know of the family's needs, but most frequently by the dependents themselves. It is the duty of the Field Agent to make a careful investigation of every case before granting relief.

Sometimes a reliable man or woman will notify the Field Agent of a very distressing case and request that temporary relief be given at once. They will assure the Field Agent that they are thoroughly familiar with the conditions in the home and that the family is worthy and in great need. Knowing how reliable the persons are who make the request the relief asked for is sometimes granted before an investigation is made.

Experience has shown this to be a bad policy and should be discontinued. The people who make the request are usually perfectly honest in what they are doing, but they are not trained charity workers and are likely to let their sympathies rule instead of their better judgment.

Just recently a man and woman from different parts of the city called at the office of the Field Agent of the Charity Organization Society the same day in behalf of the same family. They both claimed to be perfectly familiar with all the facts in the case and assured the Field Agent that the family was out of coal and that the little children were freezing. A load of coal was sent at once without making any further inquiry. The following day the family was visited and a full history of the case secured. The facts brought out by the investigation were as follows. The husband and father was a good carpenter and earned \$20 a week. The wife and mother according to her own statement was an expert dressmaker and made \$9 a week. Here was a family making more than one hundred dollars a month and at the same time trying to get help from charity. It is needless to say that if the proper investigation had been made all assistance would have been refused.

It is not even safe to give relief to men and women that come to the office where you can question them personally. It is always best to make a visit to the home and have an interview with both the husband and the wife. The following example will show the importance of the visit to the home. Old Chas. Wood called at the office of the Charity Organization Society one day and said that he and his family were entirely out of provisions and that they were all starving. Now Uncle **Charlie** is a typical old time "befo de wa"

negro. No one would have thought of questioning the truthfulness of his story. However, a visit to his home showed that conditions were far from being so bad as he had represented them. The wife on being asked if she was starving and needed assistance replied, "Lo'd no honey; do I look lak I's starvin, I's not on de county and I's not gwine to be on the county. Dat old fool nigger don't know what he talking about." Further inquiry revealed the fact that the family was quite well-to-do for negroes and never had been in need of assistance. If Uncle Charlie's hard luck story had been believed and no investigation made, this family might have gone on receiving help for months and probably as a result would have become pauperized.

This is the blank used by the Field Agent in making his investigations.

NAME

CROSS REF.

HOW LONG	ADDRESS	RENT	RMS.	LANDLORD or AGENT	ADDRESS	DIST	DATE
FOR ADDITIONAL ADDRESSES SEE OTHER SIDE.							

FIRST NAME	AGE	OCCUPATION OR SCHOOL	WEEKLY EARN'GS	AMT. OF INSUR.	WEEKLY PREMIUM	PHYSICAL AND MENTAL DEFECTS	LEFT SCHOOL AT AGE	BEGAN WORK AT AGE
PAWNS INSTALLMENTS OTHER DEBTS								

BIRTHPLACE	NATIONALITY OR RACE	NATIONALITY OF PARENTS	TIME IN U. S.	TIME IN STATE	TIME IN CITY	RELIGION	DATE	MARRIAGE PLACE
SOURCES OF INCOME								

HOW LONG	PREVIOUS	ADDRESSES	WHEN	HOW LONG

RELATIVES (WRITE MARRIED CHILDREN FIRST)	ADDRESS	KINSHIP	TO NO.	REFERENCES	ADDRESS	CONNECTION	OF NO.
				CHURCHES, CHARITIES & PERSONS INTERESTED			

EMPLOYERS	ADDRESS	FROM	TO	POSITION	DEPARTMENT	FOREMAN	WEEKLY EARNINGS

A careful examination of the blank used by the Field Agent in making his investigations will show that it insures a complete history of every case if properly filled out. However, the old records show that frequently little use was made of the blank.

After the investigation is made and the needs of the family found to be sufficient, relief is given at once. The Charity Organization Society gives only relief in kind, that is, food, fuel, clothing, and medicine. It gives no money and pays no rent. If a family is dependent it must arrange in some way to pay the rent. This is usually done by some relative or friend or by the County Court. All clothing and provisions are purchased by the Field Agent. No orders on stores are ever given.

In addition to the work of investigation and the giving of material relief, the Charity Organization Society performs an invaluable service to the city by investigating the claims of itinerant solicitors and in co-operating with the police, ^{in driving} agencies of this kind from the town. A few examples of this work will be given.

A so called "mission" was recently established in the city with quite a staff of workers. They at once began to criticise the management of the Charity Organization Society. They promised to take full charge of all the charity work and began to solicit gifts of money and donations of old clothing. An investigation showed that they were rank frauds. Their work was stopped and they

soon found it convenient to move on to a town that had no "ungodly Charity Organization Society."

G. Mc. came to Columbia and began to solicit money for an orphan's home. The Charity Organization Society made an investigation and found that the "home" existed only in the fertile imagination of Mc. He was collecting the money and converting it to his own use. His work stopped very promptly when the exposure came and thus the citizens were again protected from an impostor. When the work of this man was exposed, his family soon became dependent and were compelled to apply to the Charity Organization Society for assistance. They have been dependent practically ever since.

Some women came to Columbia and began to solicit gifts of old clothes. They claimed that the clothing was for the poor of the city and that they were authorized to do the soliciting by the chairman of the Friendly Visiting Committee of the Charity Organization Society. Their scheme was to collect the clothes and sell them to the second-hand stores. Unfortunately for them they came to the home of the chairman of the committee and repeated the story that they had been telling as to their authority for doing the work. The lady first very wisely found out their names and addresses, then notified the police.

The Charity Organization Society is doing much to help solve the tramp problem. The citizens are being educated as to the best methods of dealing with this class.

When the tramp appears at the back door and with his beggar's whine begins to tell his hard luck story and ask for food, money, or clothing, the people are being taught to send him to the office of the Charity Organization Society where his case can be investigated, rather than to supply his wants. In the majority of cases the "hobo" will never give anyone a chance to investigate his case. He has the same antipathy towards a Charity Organization Society as he has toward a woodpile.

The Charity Organization Society has done much towards co-ordinating the charitable work of the city by acting as an administrator of special funds. Columbia has a fund, an endowment left for poor relief, known as the Conley Poor Fund. For a long time it was administered by a special committee of the City Council. This plan proved to be very unsatisfactory. The Council then turned the administration of the Fund over to the Field Agent of the Charity Organization Society. This plan prevents overlapping and has on the whole been very satisfactory. The Conley Aid Fund now produces about \$1200 a year. One-fourth of the interest is added to the principal each year, the remainder is used for poor relief; \$861.91 was so administered last year (1916).

The Friendly Visiting Committee.

"The Society shall maintain a body of friendly visitors who shall visit the poor in their homes and by personal interest encourage them in habits of thrift,

independence, and industry, thus helping them to help themselves."

This committee is composed of from twelve to fifteen women specially chosen to act as visitors and advisors to poor families. These women go into the homes of the poor and dependent ~~and dependent~~ and give advice to the wife and mother on the preparation of meals, sewing, general sanitation, and the care of children. They also do a much needed work in providing for the care of the young children of widows while the mothers are away at their work. Their work in the care of dependent and neglected children has already been discussed in another chapter.

The work of the Friendly Visiting Committee cannot be too highly commended. However, there are a few criticisms that might fairly be made. The records show that there were one hundred dependent families in Columbia last year (1916), yet the investigation shows that only fifty of these families had ever been visited by any member of this committee. The visiting had evidently been confined exclusively to the more attractive and hopeful cases, while those who needed help and sympathy most were entirely neglected. It is not to be expected that these women will visit all of the dependent negro families, nor any of them for that matter, but the poor white families should not be neglected. An attempt should be made to enlist some of the better class of the negro women in this work that they might go and administer to the poor of their own race.

It was found in some cases that the members of the Friendly Visiting Committee forgot that they were only friendly visitors and not dispensers of material aid. Occasionally they would advise a family to ask for assistance, who if the suggestion had not been made would have managed to be self-supporting. Of course we must recognize the good intentions of the friendly visitors, but at the same time question their judgment. They should never suggest to any family the possibility of obtaining help from any source unless the need is great and it is impossible for them to get along without immediate relief. It is much easier to get the members of a family on the charity list than to get them to be self-supporting when they have once become pauperized.

The following extract from the last annual report of the Charity Organization Society will give some idea of the work done by the Friendly Visiting Committee.

Visited fifty homes, making themselves first friends and advisors of the families.

Found homes for fifteen neglected children; ten of whom were given permanent homes.

Distributed forty-two Christmas dinners to deserving but needy families.

Distributed seventy-five pairs of children's stockings as the charity of a business firm.

Enlisted the aid of the County Court and the King's Daughters in placing several patients in the hospital.

Assisted the Elks in arranging a Christmas tree.

The following sheet is used by the friendly visitors in making their investigations. An examination will show that it provides for a very thorough history of each case. However, from what could be learned from the various members of the committee it would seem that very little use is made of it. One of the most efficient members of the committee said that she knew that it was a very unscientific way of doing business, but that she would have to acknowledge that she had kept no records of her work.

The Finance Committee.

The Finance Committee secures the funds for the Society. The members of this committee with the aid of volunteer helpers make a canvass of the city once a year. The response of the citizens has always been prompt and liberal. The only criticism that could be made of the committee's work is that in some instances the canvass was not made as thorough as it might have been.

In closing the discussion of the work of the Charity Organization Society a word should be said about the work of distributing old clothes. The gift of cast off clothing is solicited from the charitably inclined people of the city. These clothes are kept in a room adjoining the office of the Field Agent and are given to the poor on application. Approximately \$600 worth of such clothing was collected and distributed last year (1916).

The present arrangement for carrying on this part of the work could be greatly improved. The Field Agent should not be made a dispenser of old clothes. He has not the time to investigate all the cases that apply for such assistance and as a result many people who are not worthy are helped. Some people have been known to get this clothing and to peddle it around wherever they could make a sale. The distribution of this clothing should be put in the hands of a committee of volunteer workers who would have time to investigate all applications for assistance.

The Work of the Churches and Other Private Agencies.

As has been stated there is a close cooperation between the Charity Organization Society and practically all the churches of the city. The pastors of many of the churches serve on the board of directors.

In making this survey the following questionnaire was sent to all the ministers in the city with the request that they furnish the information called for.

1. Number of families aided during the last year---
2. Number of persons sharing such relief-----
3. Kinds of relief furnished-----
4. Total value of such relief-----
5. Number of sick aided-----How-----
6. Number of children sent to your church home-----
7. Number of children placed in foster homes-----
8. Do you cooperate with the Charity Organization Society?-----

9. Give any other information that might be of value-----

The following are some of the replies received:-

"Calvary Church has no destitute families in attendance at present. Our people generously support the Charity Organization Society and are ready for personal service." The Rector of this church takes a personal interest in the work among the poor of the city.

The pastor of the Presbyterian Church refused to give any information concerning the number of dependents assisted by his congregation, but said his parishoners cooperated with the Charity Organization Society both in the gift of money and in personal service. Some friendly visiting among the poor is done by the ladies of this church.

The pastor of the Wilkes Boulevard Methodist Church made the following statement in regard to the work among the poor that was being done by his church: "We do a great deal of work among the poor of the city, but no records of such work is kept so I cannot give you any definite information". The membership of this church is composed very largely of laboring men and women and it was learned from other sources that they do a good work in caring for their dependents.

The Church of the Sacred Heart (Roman Catholic) has recently organized a Saint Vincent de Paul Society and is now cooperating with the Charity Organization Society in

caring for the dependents among its communicants.

The following reply to our letter of inquiry was received from the pastor of the First Baptist Church.

1. Number of families aided during the year, five.
2. Number of persons sharing wuch aid, no data.
3. Total value of all aid given, \$150.
4. Kinds of aid furnished, money, food, fuel, and clothing.
5. Number of sick aided, five.

This church cooperates heartily with the Charity Organization Society and also with the other social agencies of the city.

No reply was received from the pastor of the Broadway Methodist Church, but the assistant pastor said that the church did not cooperate in any official way with any charitable agency and that so far as he knew did no work among the poor. While nothing is being done for the relief of the dependent classes by this church as an organization a great deal is being done by the individual members and by some of the Sunday School classes. Some of the most efficient workers on the Friendly Visiting Committee of the Charity Organization Society are members of this church.

The First Christian Church has a well defined plan for carrying on its local charity work. In making up the annual financial budget \$300 is set aside for this work. If this amount is not all used in any one year, it is not

diverted to some other fund but is placed on interest. This church cooperates with all of the charitable organizations of the city. The pastor does a great deal of friendly visiting among the poor.

At Christmas time the Fraternal Order of Elks distributed twenty-two baskets of provisions among the poor of the city at an average cost of \$4 a basket. The work of this order among the poor is, perhaps, more spectacular than helpful, but it certainly shows the right spirit and should be given due credit.

The Masonic lodges of the city and the Order of the Eastern Star in addition to caring for their own poor contribute liberally to the various enterprises of the Charity Organization Society.

The White Eagle Dairy during the Christmas holidays contributes to the poor two hundred gallons of milk a day. In former years this milk has been given to all applicants without question or investigation, but in the future it will be distributed through the Charity Organization Society and no one will be furnished milk unless he has a ticket from the Field Agent.

The Cash Meat Market gives enough meat for a Christmas dinner to all needy families in the city who are not otherwise provided for.

The Mothers' Clubs of the various ward schools and distribute among the poor children of their respective

schools hundreds of garments every year. An illustration will show the nature of the work that these clubs are doing. From November 1 to December 31, 1916 the Mothers' Club of the Benton school made and distributed 118 garments.

Chapter VI.

PUBLIC AGENCIES PROVIDING SOCIAL SERVICE.

The counties of Missouri grant two forms of relief to the poor, that which is technically known as public indoor relief and is administered through the county almshouse; and that which is known as public out-door relief and is administered to the poor in their homes.

The authority for granting such relief is found in that section of the Revised Statutes which says that "Poor persons shall be relieved, maintained and supported by the county of which they are inhabitants."¹ All public relief in Missouri is administered by the County Court, two members of which are elected from corresponding districts for a term of two years, and a third, the presiding judge, is elected by the qualified voters of the entire county for a term of four years. The process of administering public out-door relief is for the court to vote money for the support of poor persons in their own homes or in the homes of relatives or friends. To those who are chronically dependent, a certain sum is granted every month throughout the year. To those who are only temporarily dependent relief is given only in times of misfortune, during sickness, or unemployment.

1. Revised Statutes 1899 section 8998.

gations; decides as to the wisdom of granting relief in any particular case; buys all supplies for such dependents; keeps a general oversight over them; decides as to when relief is no longer necessary, and does all the work in the administration of such relief that is usually done by the county judges. The Field Agent makes quarterly reports to the court of all bills paid, and the general status of all persons receiving public out-door relief. This plan has much to commend it. The Field Agent because of his long experience in dealing with the dependent classes is much better qualified to do this work than the ordinary county judge. Then the fact that he is perfectly familiar with the work of all the private agencies giving social service in the city will prevent overlapping and consequent duplication of effort. This plan entails no extra expense on the county as the Field Agent does this work without any remuneration.

However, the wisdom of granting public out-door relief in Columbia is open to serious question. It cannot be justified on the ground that it prevents families from being broken up. If all out-door relief in the city was to be discontinued and the dependents given in-door relief instead, not a single family would be broken up by the change. The Charity Organization Society takes care of all poor persons in the city unless they are chronically dependent and likely to remain so. Of the twenty-five persons receiving out-door relief in Columbia in 1916 three were maiden ladies well advanced in years, five were old widows whose children were

Such relief may be granted at any session of the court, but action on such matters is usually taken only at the regular quarterly sessions. In certain cases the sheriff or the county clerk is given authority to grant temporary relief to poor persons during the recess of the court with the understanding that all such bills will be approved and payed by the court at the next regular session.

The arguments usually urged in favor of public outdoor relief are as follows:

(1) Families are not broken up. This argument takes for granted that the family should be preserved at all hazards, that it will be better for members of the family as well as for society if they are kept out of institutions. (2) That there are not institutions enough to care for all the dependents, and that it would be unwise for the state to provide a sufficient number. (3) That it is cheaper to grant relief to the poor in their homes than to break up the family and to send the members to different institutions. (4) That many of the needy poor will not agree to go to an institution, but will accept a pension from the county.

During the period covered by this survey (1916) the county court of Boone County granted out-door relief to fifteen families in Columbia, including twenty-five persons, at a cost of \$600 for the year. All such relief in the city is given through the Charity Organization Society. The Field Agent of the Charity Organization Society makes all investi-

either unable or unwilling to support them, four were old men, either widowers or bachelors, and the others were old couples who would not have been separated, for both would have been sent to the same institution.

It may be somewhat cheaper to grant out-door relief to these dependents than it would be to care for them in the infirmary, but the difference is so small as to be negligible. It costs the county on an average about \$2.40 a month to feed, house, and clothe the dependents who are receiving out-door relief, while the cost for the same service in the infirmary is approximately \$3 a month. However, it is not much to the credit of a rich Missouri county that it spends the considerable sum of \$3 every month on its worthy poor.

No doubt the principal reason for the giving of out-door relief in Columbia is the fact that the county infirmary is always overcrowded and there is no provision made for the care of negro women.

Not much can be said in justification of the argument that many of these old people are being given public out-door relief because they are unwilling to go to an institution. Of course it hurts the pride of any one to be sent to an almshouse, but if those in authority are convinced that these dependents would be better cared for in an institution than in their own homes their duty is plain. These childish old people should not be permitted to decide in regard to what form of relief they will accept. The very fact that all of

these old people live in dirty unsanitary hovels, and many of them live entirely alone with no one to care for them when they are sick, is sufficient reason why they should be sent to the infirmary.

PUBLIC IN-DOOR RELIEF.

All public in-door relief for the dependent classes in Columbia is given through the Boone County Infirmary. This institution is situated in the open country about four miles north of the city. It is one of the old style "poor farms" and consists of two hundred and forty acres of fertile land worth approximately one hundred dollars an acre. The building is a two story brick structure and is quite inadequate for its purpose. The inmates are segregated according to sex and color. They are not segregated according to health or mentality. There is no special provision made for the care of the sick or the mentally defective. Religious services are held regularly by the young people's societies of Columbia. The building is kept clean and sanitary and the inmates are reasonably well fed. The sick are cared for by the county physician.

The following table will give the number and classification of the inmates at the time this survey was made.

Table Number Seven -- Inmates of the Boone County Infirmary and their Classification.

1. Number of white men-----	19
2. Number of white women-----	9
3. Number of negro men-----	10

4.	Number of negro women-----	2
5.	Total number of inmates-----	40
6.	Number of insane-----	1
7.	Number of epileptics-----	2
8.	Number of feeble-minded-----	5
9.	Number of cripples-----	10
10.	Number of blind-----	5
11.	Number of tubercular patients-----	0

It will be seen from the above table that more than one-half of all the inmates are either mentally or physically subnormal. There were no children in the institution at the time this survey was made. The table also shows that there were no cases of tuberculosis among the inmates. The institution had about as many patients as it could conveniently accommodate.

Thirteen of the forty inmates were from Columbia. Thus it will be seen that this city furnished thirty-two and one-half per cent of all the inmates in the county almshouse. If all the dependents in Columbia who should be given indoor relief were to be committed to the infirmary, the present building would just be about adequate to take care of them. In other words the present county infirmary has scarcely enough room to accommodate the dependents of one of the largest cities of the county, to say nothing of the rest of the county.

Eight of the thirteen inmates from Columbia are white

men, the other five are negro men. It is worthy of notice that there are no women from this city in the county infirmary. The dependent women of this city are either granted out-door relief by the County Court or are cared for by the Charity Organization Society. The average age of the white inmates from Columbia is sixty-two, that of the negroes sixty-five. These people almost without exception have been sent to the almshouse because the infirmities of age prevented them from being self-supporting.

There are a number of reforms that should be made in the management of the infirmary, and many improvements should be made in the equipment. All of the patients who are mentally deficient should be drafted out and sent to institutions where they could be given proper care. The insane should be sent to the Hospital for the Insane at Fulton, Missouri, the epileptic and feeble-minded should be sent to the Colony for the Feeble-minded at Marshall, Missouri. The presence of these mental defectives cannot but have a very bad effect on the other inmates. Furthermore when feeble-minded women are kept in a county infirmary and not properly guarded, they are likely to become the mothers of illegitimate feeble-minded children. The worthy blind should be granted a sufficient pension by the state to make them self-supporting.

Suitable provisions should be made for the care of colored women. It is hard to understand why the county has made no provisions for this class of dependents. It is certainly not because the need has not been sufficiently

great. There are now living in Columbia a number of dependent colored women who are badly in need of institutional care. These women are old and infirm and have no one to take care of them. They live in dirty unsanitary hovels and depend entirely on charity for their support. It is a disgrace to the county that the class of citizens who is most likely to become dependent is entirely neglected. The need of this improvement has been frequently called to the attention of the county judges but they refuse to take any action to remedy the situation. Then there is absolutely no provision made for the care of inmates suffering with venereal diseases. They are not segregated from the other inmates and are a constant source of danger.

This entire farm should be sold and a part of the proceeds of the sale used to buy a small tract of land near Columbia. With the balance a group of modern buildings should be erected. This plan would enable the county to care for all the dependents that need institutional care. It is apparent that men whose average age is over sixty cannot be depended on to run a two hundred acre farm. The present county judges are agreed that some such scheme as has been suggested would be better than the present system, but they are afraid to take any action for fear the people of the county would object.

DUE	RETURNED
DEC 5 1975	
DEC 09 '83 MU	NOV 15 '83 MU
MAY 29 1987	MAR 12 1987 MU
	JUN 30 1990 MU
JUL 22 1990 MU	
APR 12 2002	MU
MU FEB 18 2003	MU OCT 29 2012

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